Express Terms

and

Purpose and Rationale Statement for Work Group 9:M Occupancies Section 1203.5.1

EXPRESS TERMS

Add new subsection as follows:

Section 1203 VENTILATION

1203.5.1 Groups B, F, M, and S occupancies. In all buildings classified as Groups B. F. M, and S Occupancies or portions thereof where class I and II liquids are used, a mechanically operated exhaust system shall be provided sufficient to change one cubic foot of air per minute per square foot of floor area. Such exhaust ventilation shall be taken from a point near the floor level.

PURPOSE AND RATIONALE STATEMENT

(N) The purpose of this proposed amendment to Chapter 5 is to reasonably maintain the current level of fire/life safety provided by California Building Code (CBC) §1202.2.2 by requiring that adequate ventilation be provided to prevent the accumulation of vapors from flammable and combustible liquids in concentrations sufficient to represent a fire or explosion hazard.

Because of differences in occupancy descriptions and document layouts between the 2006 International Building Code (IBC) and the current CBC, this amendment is necessary in order to assure that occupancies that have incidental uses of certain volatile liquids be provided with the same level of life and fire safety that is in place under current state building standards.

The occupancies in question: Groups B, F, M and S, are intended by both the CBC and the IBC to contain uses and activities that do not represent an inherently high risk of fire or explosion. Therefore, these occupancy classes are not required by the IBC to be provided with the same protective level of construction and in-situ safety appliances as in more hazardous occupancy uses. This amendment continues the current CBC recognition that in otherwise low risk occupancies, some incidental use of flammable and combustible liquids may be necessary in support of the occupancies' routine activities.